



Interstate Regional Consensus Statement **on Stroke by the STATE Health Officers of the States of** **Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana,** **Mississippi and Tennessee**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME-**GREETINGS:**

WHEREAS, Stroke is the 3rd leading cause of death in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee, and the 5th leading cause of death in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, The states of Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi rank as numbers 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9, respectively, in stroke mortality in the US; and

WHEREAS, These five states share important socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic factors related to the stroke burden; and

WHEREAS, The Delta States Stroke Network:

- is a partnership of our five states, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, brought together to jointly work towards the reduction of the burden of stroke in our region;
- is mandated to enhance understanding of stroke and stroke burden from a regional perspective and increase the ability of members to work across state boundaries and leverage efforts within the region;
- should develop and implement interventions to address stroke-related issues with emphasis on partnership, education, training, policy, and environmental/systems-change strategies;
- aims to function in an integrating role, bringing state agencies and their partners together to engage in projects and activities coordinated over time and across the region; and

WHEREAS, The hallmark of a systems approach is the promotion of communication and collaboration among the various elements of the system, and given the above common elements, it is of potential benefit for these five states to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among their Health Departments, and through them, among their partners, and at higher levels within their states.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE STATE HEALTH OFFICERS of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, do hereby agree to collaborate, to the extent possible and allowable within our resources and limitations, on the following lines of action:

1. To support and facilitate the general aims and objectives, and the work of the Delta States Stroke Network, as outlined above;
2. To increase visibility of stroke as a public health and economic problem in the region;
3. To promote and facilitate the formation of strategic partnerships and collaborations;
4. To encourage and promote regionally adopted and endorsed standards and guidelines for stroke prevention and care;
5. To make available relevant data that will enable the DSSN to carry out its functions of determining the burden of stroke in the region, setting priorities and targets, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of its activities;
6. To work to improve the quality of stroke care across the region, such as through the development of regional stroke registries;
7. To support other regional initiatives, such as:
 - Regional stroke conferences;
 - Regional media campaigns;
 - Regional data collection efforts to fill data gaps;
 - Development of efforts such as telestroke initiatives that may need to cross over state boundaries for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

We make this commitment in the best interests of the citizens of our states and for the betterment of health in the nation.

Signed this, the 24th day of November 2009.

Donald E. Williamson, M.D., Alabama

Paul Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Arkansas

Jimmy Guidry, M.D., Louisiana

F.E. Thompson, M.D., MPH, Mississippi

Susan R. Cooper, M.S.N., R.N., Tennessee